

canceled and are to be pursued in a continuing application, and claims 2, 5, 7-8, 12, 15, and 17-18 are amended.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant is filing a replacement Information Disclosure Statement, PTO Form 1449 and cited references with this Amendment. Applicant is also providing a copy of the postcard receipt showing that the Information Disclosure Statement and cited references were received by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Applicant does not believe that a fee is due for filing this Information Disclosure Statement, but if a fee is found to be required, please apply to Deposit Account No. 16-0631.

Claim Amendments

Claims 2, 5, 7-8, 12, 15, and 17-18 have been amended to place an otherwise allowable dependent claim in independent format. No narrowing amendments are intended.

Claim Rejections -- 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Derosier. Claims 1 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice to be pursued in a continuing application.

Claim Rejections -- 35 USC § 103

Claims 6, 10, and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Derosier. Claims 6, 10, and 16 have been canceled without prejudice to be pursued in a continuing application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter within claims 2, 3, 5, 7-9, 12, 13, 15, and 17-19. Claims 2, 5, 7, and 8 have been rewritten as independent claims incorporating the necessary limitations of claim 1. Claims 12, 15, 17, and 18 have been rewritten as independent claims incorporating the necessary limitations of claim 11.



Application No. 09/828,619

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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Please grant any extension of time necessary for entry; charge any fee due to Deposit Account No. 16-0631.

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Douglas J. Christensen

**ATTACHMENT
REDLINED AMENDMENT**

Claims As Amended

Please cancel claims 1, 6, 10-11, and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please substitute the following amended claims for those currently pending:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Once Amended) A strap assembly for supporting one or more mountable devices comprising:

a waist strap including first and second ends;

fasteners attached to the first and second ends for releasably connecting said first end to said second end;

a shoulder strap device including one or more straps adjoined to said waist strap in at least two positions, [The strap assembly of claim 1] wherein the shoulder strap device comprises a halter strap[.]; and

one or more front straps releasably adjoined to the shoulder strap device.

5. (Once Amended) A strap assembly for supporting one or more mountable devices comprising:

a waist strap including first and second ends;

fasteners attached to the first and second ends for releasably connecting said first end to said second end;

a shoulder strap device including one or more straps adjoined to said waist strap in at least two positions, [The strap assembly of claim 1] wherein the shoulder strap device includes loop ends for threaded attachment with the waist strap[.]; and

one or more front straps releasably adjoined to the shoulder strap device.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Once Amended) A strap assembly for supporting one or more mountable devices comprising:

a waist strap including first and second ends;

fasteners attached to the first and second ends for releasably connecting said first end to said second end;

a shoulder strap device including one or more straps adjoined to said waist strap in at least two positions; and

one or more front straps releasably adjoined to the shoulder strap device, [The strap assembly of claim 1] wherein the one or more front straps include a loop material and hook material for releasably securing the front strap to the shoulder strap device.

8. (Once Amended) A strap assembly for supporting one or more mountable devices comprising:

a waist strap including first and second ends;

fasteners attached to the first and second ends for releasably connecting said first end to said second end;

a shoulder strap device including one or more straps adjoined to said waist strap in at least two positions; and

one or more front straps releasably adjoined to the shoulder strap device,

[The strap assembly of claim 1] wherein the mountable devices are selected from the group consisting of medical devices, tools and sporting goods equipment.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Once Amended) A method of supporting one or more mountable devices on an individual comprising:

positioning on the upper torso of an individual a strap assembly comprising a waist strap including first and second ends, fasteners attached to the first and second ends for releasably connecting said first end to said second end, a shoulder strap device including one or more straps adjoined to said waist strap in at least two positions, [The method of supporting one or more mountable devices on an individual of claim 11] wherein the shoulder strap device comprises a halter strap[.], and one or more front straps releasably adjoined to the shoulder strap device;

mounting the one or more mountable devices to said one or more front straps, waist strap or both; and

securing the waist strap and front straps.

15. (Once Amended) A method of supporting one or more mountable devices on an individual comprising:

positioning on the upper torso of an individual a strap assembly comprising a waist strap including first and second ends, fasteners attached to the first and second ends for releasably connecting said first end to said second end, a shoulder strap device including one or more straps adjoined to said waist strap in at least two positions, [The method of supporting one or more mountable devices on an individual of claim 11] wherein the shoulder strap device includes loop ends for threaded attachment with the waist strap[.], and one or more front straps releasably adjoined to the shoulder strap device;

mounting the one or more mountable devices to said one or more front straps, waist strap or both; and

securing the waist strap and front straps.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Once Amended) A method of supporting one or more mountable devices on an individual comprising:

positioning on the upper torso of an individual a strap assembly comprising a waist strap including first and second ends, fasteners attached to the first and second ends for releasably connecting said first end to said second end, a shoulder strap device including one or more straps adjoined to said waist strap in at least two positions, and one or more front straps releasably adjoined to the shoulder strap device, [The method of supporting one or more mountable devices on an individual of claim 11] wherein the one or more front straps include a loop material and hook material for releasably securing the front strap to the shoulder strap device[.];

mounting the one or more mountable devices to said one or more front straps, waist strap or both; and

securing the waist strap and front straps.

18. (Once Amended) A method of supporting one or more mountable devices on an individual comprising:

positioning on the upper torso of an individual a strap assembly comprising a waist strap including first and second ends, fasteners attached to the first and second ends for releasably connecting said first end to said second end, a shoulder strap device including one or more straps adjoined to said waist strap in at least two positions, and one or more front straps releasably adjoined to the shoulder strap device;

mounting the one or more mountable devices to said one or more front straps, waist strap or both; and

securing the waist strap and front straps, [The method of supporting one or more mountable devices on an individual of claim 11] wherein the mountable devices are selected from the group consisting of medical devices, tools and sporting goods equipment.